

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) High pressure sodium lamp having a nominal power  $P_{la}$ , which is suitable to be operated at a very high frequency (VHF), having a discharge tube with a ceramic wall and an internal vessel diameter  $D_{int}$ , enclosing a discharge space in which a pair of electrodes at a mutual electrode distance  $e_d$  and a filling of Na-amalgam with a sodium mol fraction (smf), characterized in that the discharge tube has a ratio  $e_d/D_{int}$  between about 5.5 and 4.0.
2. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim\_1, characterized in that the wall thickness (wt) is  $0.4 \leq wt \leq 0.6$  mm.
3. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim\_1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the lamp has a wall load of at most  $30 \text{ W/cm}^2$ .
4. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim\_1~~, 2 or 3~~, characterized in that:
  - $0.2 \leq e_d/P_{la} \leq 0.35$ ;
  - an amalgam composition with  $0.6 < \text{smf} < 0.75$ ;

- the ratio internal discharge vessel diameter  $D_{int}$  to the nominal lamp power  $Pla$  is  $0.045 \leq D_{int}/Pla \leq 0.08$ ;
- the wall thickness (wt) is  $0.4 \leq wt \leq 0.6$  mm.

5. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim ~~1, 2, 3 or 4~~, characterized in that the filling also comprises Xe having a pressure at room temperature in the range of  $400 \text{ mbar} \leq p_{Xe} \leq 1000 \text{ mbar}$ .

6. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim ~~1, 2, 3, 4 or 5~~, characterized in that the electrodes are provided with emitter and that each of the electrodes has an electrode diameter, which specified relatively to the average lamp current ( $I_{la}$ ) at nominal lamp power fulfils the relation:  $0.2 < (D_{electrode})^2 / I_{la} < 0.45$ , preferably  $0.25 < (D_{electrode})^2 / I_{la} < 0.35$ .

7. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim ~~1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6~~, characterized in that the lamp emits light in nominal operating condition with a color temperature  $T_c$  of at most 2500K.

8. (currently amended) A lighting system comprising a full electronic VHF driver for operating a lamp according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

9. (original) A system according to claim 8, wherein the VHF ballast is provided with resonant ignition means by which resonant ignition is applied on igniting the lamp.